

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 15, 2005 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Call to Order

The third School Committee meeting for March was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2005 in the Hanaford School gymnasium. The meeting was called to order by Chair Vincent Bradley at 7:05 p.m. Other members present were: Dr. Al Ross, Sue Cienki and Merrill Friedemann, as well as Superintendent Michael Jolin, Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara. Mr. Martin, Mr. Gregson and Mr. Day were absent. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Recognitions

3.1 Peter McLaren was recognized for receiving a \$4,000 grant for the town's secondary schools to be used for the removal of unwanted hazardous chemicals such as mercury, flammable solvents, explosive chemicals, and surplus chemicals.

3.2 Ahmed Ali, James Grandpre, Nicholas Hanlon, Molly Harris, Tanya Jones, Alexandra Mays, Paige McClatchy, Greg Passa, Drew Serdakowski, Arielle Stopa, Barrett Veazey and Dietrich Vogel, students at Cole Middle School, were recognized for being on the Mock Trial Team

3.3 Allison Wein was recognized for winning the Cole Spelling Bee.

Amanda

Miller was recognized for being the alternate.

3.4 Scholastic Art Awards Winners at East Greenwich High School are:

Michael Choi, Janette Chung, Angela Morabito, Cara Petit, and Rachael Wang

3.5 The Academic Decathlon Team at the high school was recognized for earning third place in the state. Members of the team are as follows: Jeremy Walker, Theresa Cheng, Matt Glantz, James Paolino, Shervin Sahba, Shilpa Kothari, Rahul Sharodi, Alex Badiavas, and Jeremy Wolff.

4. Public Comments (15 minutes) for items not on the agenda

Peter McLaren commented about a recent article in the Pendulum concerning two School

Committee members who were threatened. He noted that he speaks for every teacher, paraprofessional, custodian and administrator and they will do whatever they can to bring the person or persons responsible to justice. He added that this is not something they would condone, and is a smear on the community. He asked if there was a complaint filed with the police and if there was an investigation being done. Mrs. Cienki stated that there was a complaint filed with the police. Mr. Bradley responded that he was not aware of an investigation.

Mrs. Christine Rivers, Meadowbrook Farms physical education teacher, spoke about the Pennies for Patients Program at Meadowbrook.

Mrs. Joanne Leach stated that she hoped the next negotiating session will result in a fair contract because the past few months were difficult.

Mrs. Tricia Colgan, co-president of the Meadowbrook Farms PTG, encouraged the School Committee to get the contract settled, because the older students are being affected.

Mrs. Laurie Ratigan, parent, taxpayer and teacher, commented about the budget article in the Pendulum concerning the two percent going to students. She noted that lacking is the respect and awareness that the entire budget is for the kids. She stated that everything in the budget is for the kids, and it should be everyone's budget. She feels that the contract should be settled.

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 February 15, 2005

5.2 March 1, 2005

On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mrs. Friedemann, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the February 15, 2005 and March 1, 2005 School Committee minutes.

6. Advisory or Subcommittee Reports-There were no subcommittee reports.

7. Communications to the School Committee-There were no communications.

8. Attendance Reports were accepted for file

9. Financial Reports

10. New Business

10.1 Personnel Considerations

On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mrs. Cienki, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the following retirement:

10.1.1 Retirement

• Sally Creagh, early retirement in accordance with the contract between the East

Greenwich School Committee and the EGAESP, effective May, 2005

On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mrs. Cienki, the Committee voted unanimously

to accept the following appointments and resignation:

10.1.2 Appointments

• Caroline Petrovick, varsity girls' lacrosse coach at East Greenwich High School

• R. Douglas Haynes, boys' varsity baseball coach at Cole

10.1.3 Resignation

- Daniel Dobbins, resignation as athletic director at Cole, effective February 18, 2005.

10.1.4 Sabbatical

- Marc Brocato, High School English teacher, for 2005-2006

Dr. Jolin stated that he has met with the union representatives and noted that there is a policy

on sabbaticals in the teachers' contract. He also noted that Mr. Martin and Mr. McCarthy have drawn up an application. Mrs. Friedemann stated that she is still waiting for a document since there is no formal application process. Mrs. Friedemann made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to table the sabbatical for Marc Brocato. Dr. Ross voted no, and Mr. Bradley, Mrs. Friedemann and Mrs. Cienki voted yes. The motion to table passed.

10.2 Bid Awards

10.2.1 Fire Alarm System Upgrades for East Greenwich Schools to Gaskell Associates

in the amount of \$13,500. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to approve the study phase of the Fire Alarm System Upgrades to Gaskell Associates in the amount of \$13,500. The motion passed unanimously.

10.3 Withdrawal of West Bay Community Health

1. Health Benefits Project Agreement and Cost Plus Agreement Medical Only

Mr. Bradley suggested that this item be tabled until a discussion is held at the Executive Session part of the meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 2005 since it concerns negotiations. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to table this item. The motion passed unanimously.

10.4 Team Challenge Competition Trip to South Africa in the summer of 2006

Mr. Robert McCarthy stated that two prior School Committees approved trips to Bolivia and Peru and they were very successful. Two students who went on previous trips spoke to the School Committee about the fundraising and teamwork involved in a trip like this. It was noted that the cost would be approximately \$5000, with 70% raised by students. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to approve the trip to South Africa in the summer of 2006. The motion passed unanimously.

10.5 School Calendar 2005-2006

This item was tabled until there is a further discussion with the teachers' union.

10.6 Change meeting location to High School Auditorium

Mr. Bradley stated that bids for acoustics are being solicited.

11. Old Business

11.1 Rhode Island Department of Health Student Risk Survey for Cole
Dr. Jolin noted that he recommends approval of this survey. He also stated that students

participate on a voluntary basis, and it is important to have East Greenwich be a part of the cross section of districts in the state. Dr. Ross asked for more information on the results. Dr. Ross then made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to approve the distribution of the survey to Cole students. The motion passed unanimously.

11.2 Complaint against Chair, Vincent Bradley

There was no further discussion on this issue.

12. Reports to the School Committee-There were no reports.

13. School Committee Concerns to be addressed to the Superintendent-There were no concerns.

14. School Committee Procedural Business-There was no procedural business.

15. School Committee Reminder List-There was no discussion on this item.

16. Visits to Schools-There have been no school visits this past week.

17. Public Comments (15 minutes)

Mrs. Connie McCormack, library media specialist at the high school, stated that she would like to make sure the School Committee has a policy on sabbaticals. She also stated that the teachers' union does not negotiate in public, and noted that she wants the person who

published her salary on the website to know that she is very proud of her salary because she has worked very hard. Mrs. Christine Mattos responded that the salary information was provided to her as part of the access to public records act. Mrs. Mattos feels that the numbers in the budget for salaries are overstated and that money should be allocated to classroom supplies.

18. Executive Session, R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2) Contract Negotiations-Teachers/Paraprofessionals

On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mrs. Friedemann, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to adjourn and go into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. under R.I.G.L. 46-45-2 (a) (2) for contract negotiations for teachers and paraprofessionals.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani